



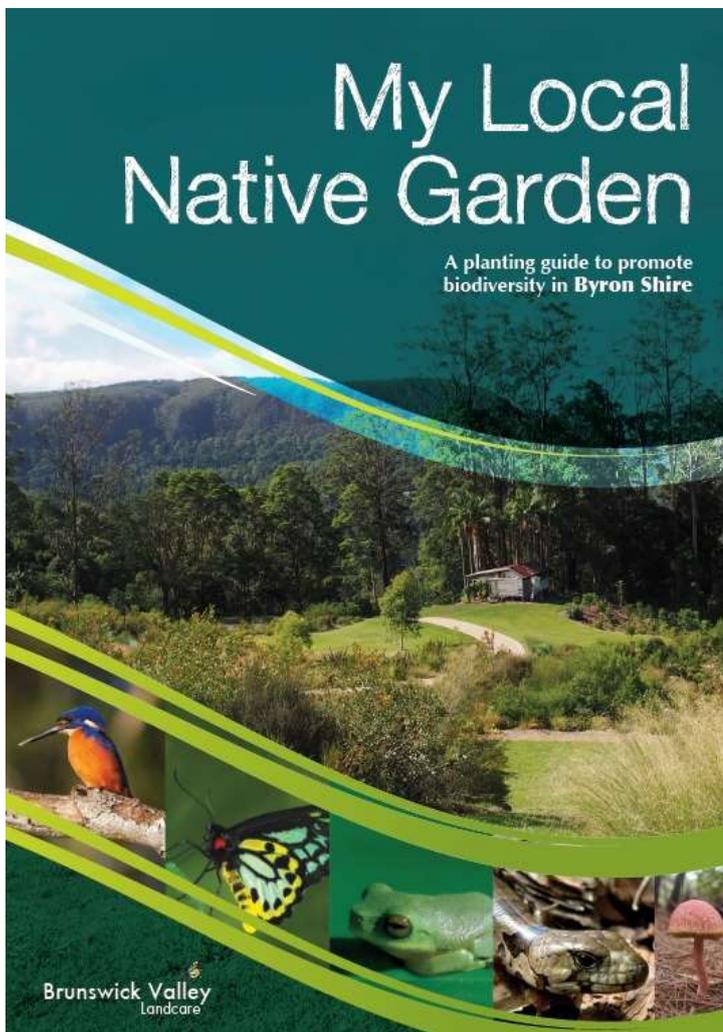
# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

<http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>

 Connect on facebook

- MARCH**      17 Farm Forestry Field Day  
                  25 MLNG Launch at World Water Day  
                  31 Breakfast with the Birds
- APRIL**        1 Yallakool Tree Planting, Ocean Shores  
                  9 Intrepid Landcare Creeks 'n' Grass

**March 2017**



## My Local Native Garden Launch

**My Local Native Garden** is a 44-page booklet published by Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) that is packed with information to help you design, plant and maintain your own native garden. This hugely popular book has been updated to include new sections on 'Landscaping for Water Quality' and 'How to Attract Wildlife to your Garden'.

The new My Local Native Garden will be launched at World Water Day on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March** to highlight the importance of creating a home and garden that is water sensitive. Jerry Coleby-Williams will be speaking on his award winning pioneering whole site water management plan and **FREE** copies of the booklet will be available.

Later on in the year there will be a complementary resource "Native Species Planting Guide for Tweed and Byron Shires." This interactive online resource will enable users to select local native species from options that meet size, flower colour and location

requirements, environmental needs (e.g. salt hardy, vegetation type), availability, etc. and produce a 'personally' selected planting list for your specific location. It will also provide links to images and further information.

For more information on World Water Day please visit:

<http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/events/2017/01/31/byron-wetlands-open-day-25-march-2017>

*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.*





# Free Field Day

## Farm Forestry – Plan for the Future

Come along to a free practical field day:

- Visit a property where Farm Forestry has been integrated into an overall plan to protect and enhance biodiversity values,
- Learn from experts in the fields of Farm Forestry, Soil Science and Natural Habitat Restoration.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm Myocum**

This is a practical, active field day and talks by experts will be interspersed at intervals while walking to different sites on the property.

### PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

12.30 – 1.00	Arrival and walk to starting point (approx. 150m)
12.30 - 1.15	Lunch provided
1.15 – 1.30	Welcome, introduction and orientation to property given by property owner
1.30 – 1.45	Dr Joanne Green (BSC): farm forestry issues at a local level
1.45 – 2.00	Walk to cabinet timber area
2.00 – 2.30	Dr Kevin Glencross (SCU): farm forestry topics and questions from participants
2.30 – 2.45	Walk to soil demonstration site
2.45 – 3.15	Dr John Grant (SCU): soil science related to farm forestry and questions from participants
3.15 – 4.15	Guided walk through areas of the property illustrating different planting techniques, plant ID and lessons learnt, guided by the property owner and Dr Joanne Green
4.15	Return to starting point

**Bookings are essential** please contact: Bela Allen 6684 7113 [bela\\_allen@yahoo.com](mailto:bela_allen@yahoo.com)

*This project is supported by funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program*





Friday, 24 March 2017 | 9.00 am – 1.30 pm

Monaltrie, NSW 2480

Lunch and refreshments will be provided | Cost: Free



**Would you like to use drone technology to manage your floodplain farm? Are you interested in fencing without materials?**

If so, come to this field day run by North Coast Local Land Services and Conservation Volunteers Australia, in partnership with Lismore City Council.

The field day will be hosted by Tony and Lindy Margan who will showcase some of the excellent measures they have implemented on their floodplain farm.

The day will include presentations on technologies for farming in the future including using drones for fence and weed mapping, and virtual fencing.

There will also be a demonstration of control of common and cockspur coral trees, problematic weeds on the Richmond floodplain, and a discussion on carp and waterways.



Wear suitable clothing and bring a water bottle, sun and insect protection and a chair. Please book your place by Monday, 20 March 2017, indicating whether you have any specific dietary requirements. The field day location details will be provided when you RSVP. Email: [claire.hewitt@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:claire.hewitt@lls.nsw.gov.au) or phone: 6623 3900

This project is delivered by North Coast Local Land Services and Conservation Volunteers Australia, through funding from the National Landcare Programme



# *Rainforests of Subtropical Australia*

## *A Symposium of Science and Practice*

A decade since the last major rainforest conference in eastern Australia, Rainforests of Subtropical Australia (ROSA) brings you the very latest in rainforest science and restoration, with sessions on climate change, threatened species, rainforest values and restoration.

### **FEATURING:**

Carla Catterall  
Ian Lowe  
Ralf Buckley  
Roger Kitching  
Tim Low

Plus over 30 of  
Australia's leading  
rainforest experts!

The 2017 ROSA Symposium is brought to you by Healthy Waterways and Catchments, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme



**23 - 24 March 2017**  
**Gold Coast**

For more information, and to register visit  
[rosa2017.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/rosa2017.eventbrite.com.au)



## Breakfast with the Birds Free Field Day



Join us to find out how to look after our creek, recognising and managing the good, the bad and the ugly.

**Friday 31st March 2017 7.00 am – 12.00 pm Wilsons Creek**

5 minutes from Mullum with good access

### PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 7 am Early bird walk - David Stewart, wildlife sound recordist. Bring binoculars if you can.
- 8.30 Breakfast, including BBQ
- 9.00 Welcome and introductions
- 9.15 Riparian management - Dr Jo Green (Byron Shire Council)  
Coral Tree demonstration - landcare team and bush regenerators
- 10.00 Carp in the creek - Jim Tait, fisheries scientist
- 10.45 Morning tea (may include hot smoked carp, depending on the catch!)
- 11.15 Land for Wildlife talk and nest box inspection
- 12.00 Finish

Numbers are limited and **bookings are essential** for catering and logistics. Please book separately for :

- Bird walk
- Breakfast
- Some / all of the rest of the program

please contact: [wilsonscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wilsonscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au) 0421 244 640



*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.*



Yallakool Landcare Group

## Community Tree Planting

8.30 Saturday 1st April

Cross the footbridge at the end of  
Inderwong Ave. Ocean Shores  
(off Rajah Road )



**ALL WELCOME**

Supported by

**Byron Shire Council & Brunswick Valley Landcare**

Can't make it on Saturday 1st?

A small group of volunteers work on a regular basis in  
YallaKool Reserve. Why not come and join us.

**Contact David for more information on 0427 650 861**





PRESENTS

# Creeks 'n' Grass

SUNDAY APRIL 9TH

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF LANDCARE, CONNECTING TO COUNTRY, MUNCHING ON LOCAL FOOD, MAKING NEW FRIENDS, HEARING STORIES OF CULTURAL BURNS AND MOST OF ALL, FUN!

Carpool & meet at Whian Whian Road carpark 8:45 am  
Event will finish at around 6:00 pm or opt out when you please

For inquiries  
email [northernriversintrepidlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:northernriversintrepidlandcare@gmail.com) or head  
to <https://www.facebook.com/NorthernRiversIntrepid/>



With generous support from



 firesticks

Cultural burning, healthy communities, healthy landscapes



Whian Whian  
Landcare



Big Scrub  
Landcare



Richmond  
Landcare  
inc.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creeks-n-grass-tickets-32484807935>



**Big Scrub  
Landcare**  
The Voice of  
the Rainforest

## Fungi of the Big Scrub with Steve Axford

**Saturday 11 March 2017 9:00 am – 11:00 am AEDT**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A BIG SCRUB LANDCARE MEMBERS ONLY EVENT.

NOT YET A MEMBER? JOIN - IT'S FREE. GO TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR OUR WEBSITE TO BECOME A MEMBER BEFORE YOU CAN BOOK INTO THIS EVENT. THANK YOU.

Come on a walk and talk through Nightcap National Park with Big Scrub Landcare and macro fungi photography specialist Steve Axford to learn about the Fungi of the Big Scrub! Steve will explain the role of fungi within the sub-tropical rainforest ecosystem and we will try and find some interesting species to check out.

Where: Big Scrub Flora Reserve and Nightcap National Park

Who: Big Scrub Landcare Members (become a member it's free)

Time: *(arrive at 8:30am for a 9am sharp departure)*

Meeting Point: Rocky Creek Dam carpark (and we will carpool to Gibergunyah Range Road - see 'Getting There' below)

Bring: Your water bottle and your snack

Wear: Long pants, hat and sturdy walking shoes.

Questions: [shannon@bigscrubrainforest.org.au](mailto:shannon@bigscrubrainforest.org.au).

Notes: *Causeway crossing – you may get your feet wet. Numbers are capped at 20. Suitable for ages 8 and above.*

*Steve Axford has an international reputation as a specialist in macro fungi photography. He has been published in magazines and newspapers throughout Europe, Nth America and Asia. He is particularly obsessed with documenting the fungi in the ancient forests near his home on the North Coast of NSW. Steve's recent portfolio includes his collection of fungi time-lapses, some of which were released in late 2016 in the BBC's David Attenborough series "Planet Earth 2".*

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fungi-of-the-big-scrub-rainforest-walk-and-talk-tickets-32396498800>



**FedTalks**  
think global, talk local

Engaging the community in conversations around issues that affect us all

THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR. THE FUTURE IS NOT

**BEFORE THE FLOOD**



**THURSDAY MARCH 16**  
**FEDERAL HALL**

Discussion @ 7.00 pm Film starts @ 7.30 pm

Join environmental scientist and academic Prof. Brendan Mackey in an introductory conversation with local commentator Mark Swivel and a short Q&A following the film

Tea, coffee and cake available from 6.30 pm  
Dinner available from 5 pm at Te-Amim Cafe, Federal

**ENTRY BY DONATION** 

[www.fedtalks.com.au](http://www.fedtalks.com.au) [www.facebook.com/FedTalks](http://www.facebook.com/FedTalks)  
[fedtalks2480@gmail.com](mailto:fedtalks2480@gmail.com) ph. Alan: 66 849 313



**CELESTRON**  
**JUNE 24/25**  
**BYRON BAY**

**STAR STUFF**  
FESTIVAL OF THE COSMOS - BYRON BAY

WITH **DR KARL KRUSZELNICKI**  
DR KATIE MACK, MARK GEE, DR DAVID MALIN,  
DR ALAN DUFFY, DR FRED WATSON, DR SUANE HAMACHER,  
JAMIE ANDERSON & DYLAN O'DONNELL.

## Start Something Workshops

Do you have a bright idea that would help your community and the natural world, but keep thinking, 'How do I start? What do I do next?'

Maybe you have a great idea, or maybe you have the drive to help someone else get their idea off the ground. Your local community group might be looking for new ways to secure funding and build partnerships.

The Start Something Workshops may be what you have been looking for. Free to attend, the workshops focus on three skills areas; shaping your idea, finding finance and telling your story. You will gain practical skills and knowledge to help build and nurture a new project or business idea. You will hear from experts and successful entrepreneurs and discover resources you can draw on in your community.

We are investing in you so you can invest in your community and a better future for your region.

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Free at The Farm, Ewingsdale**

[http://register.environment.nsw.gov.au/start-something?utm\\_source=redirect&utm\\_medium=all&utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=Start%20Something%20bitlink](http://register.environment.nsw.gov.au/start-something?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=all&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Start%20Something%20bitlink)

*Start  
Something*  
WORKSHOPS

## Control large woody vine weeds workshop



When: **Saturday 18 March – 9.30am to 1pm**

Where: The New Govardhana Farm, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella

The Mid Oxley River riparian restoration and connectivity project, funded by the NSW Government through the Environmental Trust is now into its second year and much progress has been made. A focus of this project is the control of large woody vine weeds, particularly Cat's Claw Creeper which smothering the riparian vegetation for many years.

Participate in this event where you can meet with likeminded people and learn or refresh your land care skills in stewardships of our environment

- 25 participants will receive instruction in the identification and control of large woody vine weeds
- Control established large woody weed species
- Control seed bank re-emergences
- Plant re-establishment and planting to control vine weeds

Also, featured will be:

- Threats posed by weeds to Threatened biodiversity - David Milledge (Landmark Ecological Services).
- Aquatic weeds – Kim Curtis (Rous County Council)

Alight lunch will be served that caters for vegetarian and gluten free diets. Please wear sturdy shoes and sun safe clothing. Numbers are limited and booking is essential please contact Jude Mason 02 6670 2199 or [info@tweedlandcare.org.au](mailto:info@tweedlandcare.org.au)



In the Valley the newsletter for Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare is now available to download. There is a map of the progress the Coral Tree project has made and all the local

contacts you may need. [http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/In-the-Valley-17\\_2-March-2017.pdf](http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/In-the-Valley-17_2-March-2017.pdf)



The March issue of Village Eco News is now available with a great article on flying cane toads and the importance of wetlands.

[https://issuu.com/villageeconews/docs/village\\_eco\\_news\\_issue\\_8\\_march\\_2017](https://issuu.com/villageeconews/docs/village_eco_news_issue_8_march_2017)

## Climate Council review of 2016

This review from the Climate Council summarises global and Australian climate statistics for 2016. Australian climate impacts included the worst coral bleaching event in the Great Barrier Reef's history, largescale mangrove dieback in northern Australia, and a major algal bloom in the Murray River.

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/2016-hottest-year-report>

## Economic benefits of Landcare: case studies

These three case studies, covering liming in the WA grains industry, riparian management in the cotton industry, and nutrient/effluent management in the Victorian dairy industry, highlight some of the on-farm and off-farm economic impacts of Landcare.

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/economic-benefits-landcare>

## Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board – recruitment

A new Biodiversity Conservation Trust will deliver an unprecedented government investment of \$240 million over 5 years in private land conservation

An additional \$70 million in ongoing funding will also be available in future years subject to performance review

The Trust will be guided by a Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy, which will identify priority investment areas and principles for investment

The Trust will support and encourage landholders to enter into agreements to conserve and protect biodiversity on private land, safeguarding and reconnecting key remnant vegetation

The NSW Government is inviting applications for membership on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board from those with the relevant skills and experience.

<https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/private-land-conservation/>

## Public Exhibition Stage 3 Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation Mapping for Huonbrook, Upper Main Arm & Upper Wilsons Creek localities (Stage 3) is on public exhibition for six weeks from **2 February to 16 March 2017**.

### How you can be involved:

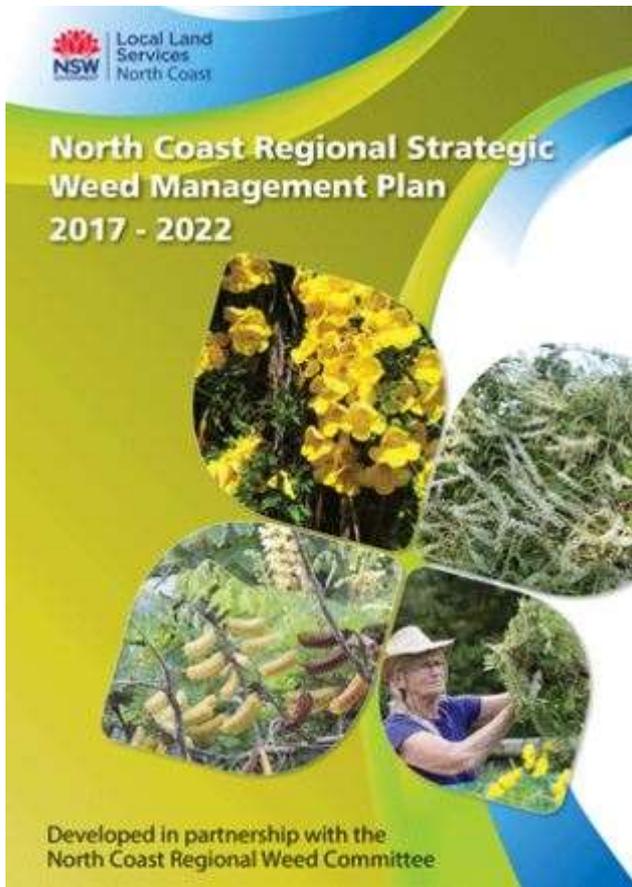
- visit [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition) to review the maps and advise Council, by making a submission before 16 March 2017, if the vegetation on your land is different to what is shown on the maps.
- call 6626 7324 to talk to Council's staff or to make an appointment: 9.00 - 12.00, Tuesdays to Fridays.
- email your submission to [submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au) or post to PO Box 219, Mullumbimby NSW 2482.



Byron Shire Council  
70-90 Station Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482  
E: [submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au)

Ph: 6626 7324

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)



## Closing date extended. Have Your Say: Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan – closing date extended

The North Coast Regional Weed Committee and North Coast Local Land Services have prepared a Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.

Landcare has been part of the development of the Plan, and is represented on the Regional Weed Committee through Barry Powells of Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare. This is your chance to have your say on the draft plan before it is finalised.

The North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan will be on public exhibition from **8 February to 29 March 2017**.

The purpose of the Plan is to guide weed management in the region. The Plan will help implement the NSW weed reforms, Biosecurity Strategy and Invasive Species Plan in relation to weeds for the North Coast region. The North Coast Regional Strategic Weed

Management Plan builds on past weed planning efforts and is based on the accumulated experience and expert local knowledge of Regional Weed Committee members and their networks. It identifies priority weeds, their management objectives, and the recommended measures that will allow land managers to meet their General Biosecurity Duty.

The Plan is non-regulatory, rather that it prioritises species for management under the Biosecurity Act 2015. As such there are no specific requirements mentioned for control at a regional level. The regulatory control of weeds in our region will remain with the local Control Authorities (Councils) who are responsible for compliance under the Biosecurity Regulations.

Online feedback on the plan can be made from 8 February - 29 March via the North Coast Open website. The North Coast Draft Plan, additional supporting information, and feedback process will be available on North Coast Open from Wednesday 8 February. <http://open.lls.nsw.gov.au/nc-weeds>



The theme for the 2017 Exhibition is "Spirit of the Land". Held on August 25th-27th. More info visit [www.osartexpo.com](http://www.osartexpo.com)

## GroNATIVE APP

There's a brand new app [GroNATIVE app](#) designed for South East Queenslanders by Natura Pacific, Griffith University and the Queensland Government.

GroNATIVE is a free app designed to help anyone with a bit of space to create a native garden bursting with life. From balcony to back-yard, or from acreage to restoration area, the app provides a purposeful and easy way to make your property look great using native plants.

The tool was co-ordinated, written and compiled by Natura Pacific, designed and coded by Griffith University and funded by the Queensland Government. The first release version 'GroNATIVE South East Queensland' focuses on over 400 plants native to the South East Queensland bioregion that spans the coastal ranges between Gladstone and the New South Wales border at Coolangatta and inland to Toowoomba.

GroNATIVE South East Queensland makes it free, easy and fun to design your perfect native garden. From bottle-trees to booyongs and from native limes to giant orchids, an updated list of native nurseries will help you locate where to buy your plants from.

To download the app simply go to the Apple App Store or Google Play and type GroNATIVE in the search-bar, or alternatively...

[Click here to visit the GroNATIVE Showcase page](#)



## Asian Gecko by Alan Goldstein

Goonengerians are reporting for a few years now the arrival in numbers of the Asian House Gecko. We are wondering how big an issue this is in other parts of the Shire and surrounds.

Please find attached the story of Asian house geckos in Australia. It reflects fundamental ignorance because it was and is not obvious they are having negative impacts, but as Hoskin points out we should be looking, and they have been recorded in the bush away from houses in northern Australia.

We have no more informative information but we keep getting reports of them having invaded houses both up here in the hills and on the coast locally. If they've traveled through the bush to colonize these houses (where they are easily detected) there must be quite a few of them in the matrix surrounding the houses (where they are not easily detected). They would be typically found wood heaps or in rock piles.

It would be interesting for people to look out in their wood heaps and rock piles and on trees by torchlight on warm nights etc. How about a combined land care "spot the gecko competition"?

Except below taken from paper by Conrad J Hoskin.

*"Hemidactylus frenatus* is an Asian gecko that has spread pantropically to become one the world's most widespread reptiles. It has been established in Australia for approximately 50 years, but the last two decades have seen massive range expansion across settled areas of northern and eastern Australia; and this spread continues at pace. Disturbingly, *H. frenatus* is increasingly being detected in natural habitats in Australia, in some cases at high densities. Despite rampant spread, there has been little concern regarding the potential impact of this species on native geckos or natural systems more broadly. This is surprising given that Australia is a centre of gecko origin and diversity, and that *H. frenatus* has had well documented detrimental impacts on geckos in other parts of its introduced range"

Read the full paper here: [http://biology-assets.anu.edu.au/hosted\\_sites/Scott/2011hoskinaustecol.pdf](http://biology-assets.anu.edu.au/hosted_sites/Scott/2011hoskinaustecol.pdf)

## STORIES to inspire and give you hope

### Successful Habitat Action Grant by Alison Ratcliffe

Twenty six projects were funded in the 2016-2017 Habitat Action Grants. These grants will assist recreational anglers, local Councils, environmental and community groups and private landholders to enhance and rehabilitate degraded recreational fish habitat through a range of on-ground works. Rehabilitation of fish habitat provides long-term sustainable benefits for native fish stocks and in turn provides substantial benefits for NSW recreational fishers who will enjoy more healthy productive fisheries. Improvements in fish habitat will also provide more opportunities for rural and regional communities to promote local tourism.



“Restoring fish habitat in Marshalls Creek, Brunswick River” was one of the successful grants. The project managed by Brunswick Valley Landcare will carry out weeding, erosion control, and revegetation of coastal forests and wetlands along Marshalls Creek, New Brighton and Ocean Shores. The work will be carried out on land owned by the Ocean Shores Country Club and Byron Shire Council.



*Photos from previous project at the Ocean Shores Country Club.*

*Photo 1 : Eroding bank January 2010*

*Photo 2: Installation of coir logs 2011*

*Photo 3: June 2012 Monitoring photos*

*Photo 4: August 2016 after the 2 flood events*



## Weed Workshop was a great success by Bela Allen



*Shane Ivey speaking about aboriginal artefacts*

Brunswick Valley Landcare recently formed partnerships with North Coast Local Land Services, Rous County Council (Far North Coast Weeds) and Madhima Gulgan Community Association to host a workshop, “Know your Weeds – Second Step to Property Planning”.

The workshop was well attended and the room quickly filled with enthusiastic people and a jungle of weed samples, some of which were assembled into a labelled display of local environmental

weeds by Alison Ratcliffe (Landcare Support Officer). Joanne Green (Botanist) volunteered to identify the less obvious weed and plant samples brought in by participants.

Topics covered in talks were High Priority Weeds by Kim Curtis (Rous County Council, Far North Coast Weeds), Plants Poisonous to Livestock by Phil Kemsley (veterinarian, North Coast Local Land Services) and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assets on private land by Shane Ivey (Madhima Gulgan Community Association).

Jai Sleeman from North Coast Local Land Services organised an impressive, delicious lunch and afternoon tea.

Thanks to all who contributed to another successful workshop!



A resource of weed references and information is available on the website,

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/BVL-Weed-Handout-2017.pdf>

*This project is supported by funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program*



*Do you recognise any of these weeds?*

## Land for Wildlife

### Private Land Conservation Survey



The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW) is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation, established in 1970 with a mission to protect and safeguard Australia's native plants, animals and cultural heritage.

FNPW collaborates with local project partners, working together to gain permanent protection for habitats, grow Australia's National Parks system and to conserve Australia's unique habitats, species, and cultural heritage. FNPW does this in a range of ways including supporting local projects, grants programs and delivering Backyard Buddies - a community environmental education initiative to encourage everyone to do their bit for Australia's unique wildlife.

With over 47 years' experience, FNPW as an environmental and conservation NGO has assisted in protecting and growing 48 National Parks & protected areas across Australia. The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife and their Project Partners also support landowners to create healthy habitat for species on their own land and since 2008 have awarded 381 Private Land Conservation Grants totalling over \$1.9M. In total, FNPW with our supporters has raised \$60 million for the conservation of Australia's environment.

In late 2016, FNPW was awarded a grant via the LECG program administered by Environmental Trust to support FNPW's "**Nurturing PLC in NSW**" Project. This project aims to highlight both the environmental and social investment made to private land conservation in NSW, the benefits provided by the PLC grant recipients and further promote involvement and engagement to potential private landholders. This project will allow FNPW to share project case studies and success stories, provide information to inspire potential private landholders to engage with FNPW and undertake PLC activities.

To help FNPW gain insight into Private Land Conservation in NSW, and in particular the concept of how PLC can support community engagement and positive social outcomes of being involved, we have launched a survey and encourage all individuals to tell us more about their motivations, challenges and any barriers to participating in PLC.

To take the survey visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNPWconservation>

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## Backyard Bird Surveys by Birds in Backyards



We talk a lot about the importance of attracting the small birds we have lost in our suburbs back into your gardens. So let's focus on four of our favourite small birds: [Eastern Spinebills](#), [New Holland Honeyeaters](#), [Superb Fairy-wrens](#) and [Silvereyes](#) (our feature bird). We know that fairy-wrens like hopping on open lawns, then retreating to the safety of native shrubs, honeyeaters need flowering plants and trees, and all of them need habitat that supports the insects they like to eat. But what have we learned from the past 10 years of backyard bird surveys? Read the full story [here](#).

*Photo by Richard Major © Australian Museum*

## FUNDING

### Do you have a great project and need funds to make it happen?

You can find more information on available grants on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website including a calendar of all grants expected to be available during 2016. There are also some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/funding/>

### Building Better Regions Fund

This program provides funding for infrastructure and community investment projects that will create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future. Both streams are now open. The Investment Projects Stream will close at 5pm local time on 28 February 2017 and the Community Investments Stream will close at **5pm local time on 31 March 2017**. <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund>



Department  
of Industry  
Resources & Energy

### Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Private Land Conservation Grants

The Private Land Conservation Grant program from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife is due to open very soon. All Land For Wildlife (or other conservation-covenanted properties) should consider applying.



Grant Applications Close: **Friday 17 March 2017**

One application per property per year is accepted from landholders with one of the following commitments:

Category 1: Conservation Agreement under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or Trust Agreement under the Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001 or In-perpetuity Registered Property Agreement under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997 - Up to \$5,000 a year

Category 2: Conservation Property Vegetation Plan under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 or Wildlife Refuge under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 - Up to \$2,000 a year

Category 3a: Applications for this level are for group Conservation Training and/or Education and can be submitted by Wildlife Land Trust and / or Land for Wildlife members, Land for Wildlife Regional Providers and Trainers / educators on behalf of Wildlife Land Trust and/or Land for Wildlife - Up to \$2,000 a year for training or education proposals

Category 3b: Applications can be submitted by Wildlife Land Trust and / or Land for Wildlife members - Up to \$1,500 a year for on ground works

<http://www.fnpw.org.au/grants/nsw-private-land-conservation-grants>

### NSW Rural Scholarship

RASF Rural Scholarships offer \$5000 for full-time study or \$2500 for part-time study. The open-age scholarship is not limited to any type of course but the applicant must demonstrate a commitment for any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW. More?

<http://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/scholarships-and-grants/ras-rural-scholarships/>

# Cecropia



Photo: Far North Coast Weeds

## Have you seen Cecropia plants in your area?

Cecropia (*Cecropia peltata*) is a class 2 noxious weed in the Northern Rivers. It is only present to a limited extent now, but it poses a potentially serious threat to primary production and the environment if it's not controlled now and is allowed to spread.

Trees can grow up to 20m high and often have a wide leafy canopy. The trunk is hollow and ringed with leaf scars, and the fruits are yellow and sausage-shaped.

The very large-lobed leaves make the tree easy to identify – they are 10-60cm wide with 7-11 lobes that have white hairs underneath. The old leaves on the ground can often be the first

thing that you will notice about larger trees as they are a lot larger than most other tree leaves.

## Why is it a problem?

*Cecropia peltata* is native to Central and South America and the West Indies. Our subtropical climate provides an ideal habitat for it to grow and spread. It has invaded forests and roadsides overseas and is listed as one of the global top 100 worst invasive species. Isolated outbreaks have been recorded in increasing numbers here on the Northern Rivers.

If you think you have seen Cecropia call Rous County Council for help with identification on 66233847.

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## Weed of the Month



This month's weed of the month is Climbing Nightshade or Brazilian Nightshade *Solanum seaforthianum*. It originates from the West Indies and is a sprawling perennial shrub or climber. Its leaves are deeply lobed with both surfaces green and hairless except for hairs on margins and veins on lower surface. Flowers are a cluster of 10-50 mauve-blue flowers in Spring and Autumn. It has a bright red berry in Summer to early Winter. It reproduces and spreads through bird dispersed seeds.



## WORKING BEES - why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. **Please always contact the groups co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!**

### Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am  
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park  
CONTACT: Jordan Moore [brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com) 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

### Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am  
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140  
or David Kemp [dnkemp77@gmail.com](mailto:dnkemp77@gmail.com) 0427 650 861

### Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 9:00am  
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay  
CONTACT: Veda Turner [vedaturner@gmail.com](mailto:vedaturner@gmail.com) 0427 857 991

### Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am  
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby  
CONTACT: Diana Hughes [bromspot@gmail.com](mailto:bromspot@gmail.com)

### Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: Ian Parer [ianparer@hotmail.com](mailto:ianparer@hotmail.com)

### Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer  
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 [rdeheer1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdeheer1@bigpond.com)

### South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm  
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.  
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden [robyn.bolden@australis.net](mailto:robyn.bolden@australis.net) 6680 1970

### Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
CONTACT: Helen Brown [hellyh@bigpond.com](mailto:hellyh@bigpond.com) 6685 4964

### Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am  
WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah  
CONTACT: Bela Allen [bela\\_allen@yahoo.com](mailto:bela_allen@yahoo.com) 6684 7113

## LINKS

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- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
  - Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview>
  - Bangalow River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
  - Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
  - Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
  - Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
  - Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
  - Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
  - EnviTE [www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)
  - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
  - Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
  - Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
  - North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Northern Landcare Support Services <http://www.nlss.com.au/>
  - Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
  - North Coast nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
  - Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
  - Soilcare <http://www.soilcare.org>
  - Suffolk Park Locality Group (BVL) [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group)
  - Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
  - Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>
  - Wetlandcare Australia <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php>
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For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire  
please contact

Landcare Community Support Officer

Alison Ratcliffe 66267028 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

email: [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



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**Local Land  
Services**

